9: Eppstein S-4 (no date) 1945 EC1 Hungary EC1

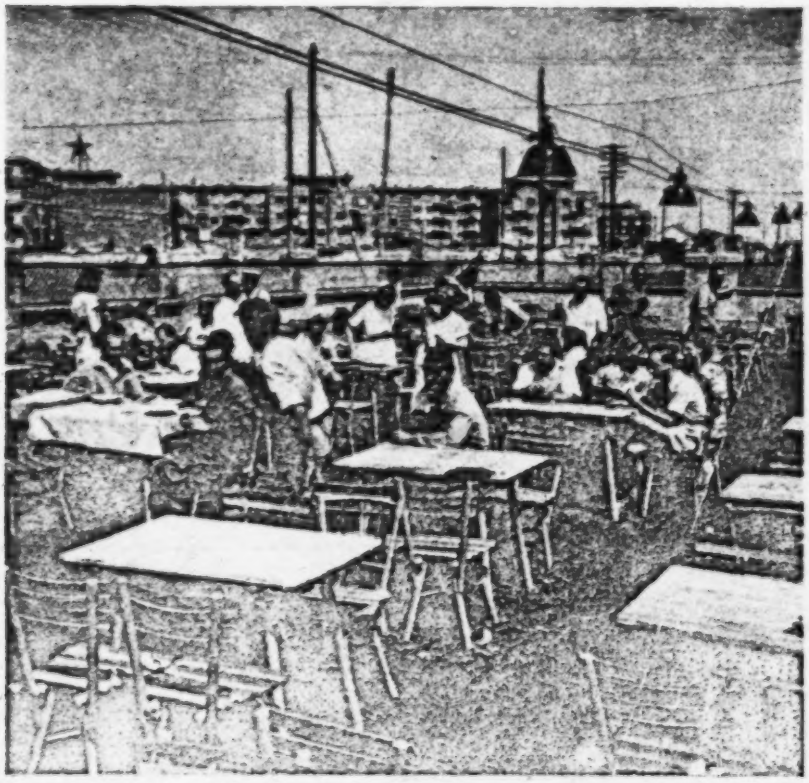
in 1920, and has held that office ever since.[1] In practice, the Regent exercises nearly all the rights of a crowned king, except that of creating titles of nobility, and some special rights connected with the Roman Catholic Church, which are vested in the crowned king of Hungary. His son has, however, no claim to succeed him, and Horthy's elder son, who might have done so, was killed during the present war, in mysterious circumstances, while flying on the Russian front.

PARLIAMENT. The Hungarian Parliament consists of two Houses, of which the Upper House is composed in part of representative peers, in part of ex-officio members, such as the heads of the various Churches, in part of representatives elected by the Counties and by various bodies (Chambers of Commerce, Industry, etc.) and in part of members nominated by the Regent. The Lower House is elected, but on a system which has always left it very unrepresentative of any except the upper and middle classes. Since 1920 the franchise has been secret in the towns, but until the elections of 1939, it was open in the country districts; and when, for these elections (from which the last Parliament emerged) the secret ballot was made general, the franchise was restricted. Moreover, no elections were held in the districts 'reacquired' by Hungary after 1938; for these, Deputies were nominated by the Government.

[1] In law: in fact he was supplanted by the Arrow Cross leader Szálasi who, with Nazi support, seized power when Horthy had broadcast the news that he had appealed for an armistice, on 15 October 1944.

what else. Of the 400 members of Parliament over 70 are women and so are almost one third of the council members.

Arriving at the terminal Ferenc Gergely takes leave of his friend and goes home. At home a guest is waiting for him: his best friend, his son's godfather, Jozsef Magyar, a mason. Jozsef Magyar works in Stalintown on the construction of the Stalin Iron Works, in the new socialist town which is to be larger than Csepel and will offer thirty to thirty-five thousand workers bread and work, security and a peaceful life.



Outdoor dining area in Stalintown, where lunches are served in the summer.

such as state farms, machine stations, irrigation works and the like, are the property of the state and of public bodies as trustees for the whole people. All foreign and all wholesale trade is carried on by state enterprises, all other trade is under state supervision. 642* 471

Article 7.

1) The Hungarian People's Republic recognizes and guarantees the right of the working peasants to the land and regards it as its duty to assist the socialist development of agriculture by establishing state farms and machine stations and giving every support to productive co-operative societies based on voluntary association and joint work. 642* 423 474

2) The state recognizes and supports every genuine co-operative movement of the workers that is directed against exploitation.

Article 8.

1) The constitution recognizes and protects all property acquired by labour. 642* 421

2) Private property and private enterprise must not be such as to run counter to the public interest.

3) The constitution guarantees the right of inheritance.

Article 9.

1) In the Hungarian People's Republic labour is the base of the social order. 642* 461

2) Every able-bodied citizen has the right, and the duty to work to the best of his ability and is bound in honour to do so.

3) By their labour, by participation in work competitions, by tightening labour discipline and improving working methods, the workers serve the cause of socialist construction.

4) The Hungarian People's Republic strives to apply in practice the socialist principle: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."

SECTION THREE

The Highest Organs of State Authority.

Article 10.

1) The highest organ of state authority in the Hungarian People's Republic is Parliament. 642* 646

x 642 2) Parliament exercises all the rights deriving from
●646 the sovereignty of the people and determines the organization, direction and conditions of government.

3) In accordance with this its competence Parliament:

a) creates legislation,

b) determines the state budget,

c) decides the national economic plan,

d) elects the Presidential Council of the People's Republic,

e) elects the Council of Ministers,

f) sets up and abolishes ministries and defines and changes the sphere of activity of the several ministries,

g) decides upon declaring war and concluding peace,

h) exercises the prerogative of amnesty.

Article 11.

1) Parliament is elected for a term of four years.

2) Members of Parliament may not be arrested or prosecuted without the consent of Parliament, except when taken in the act

[545] 3) All political, economic or other activity or conduct detrimental to the interests of the workers is incompatible with the quality of a Member of Parliament.

Article 12.

1) Parliament meets in regular session not less than twice a year.

2) Parliament must be convened at the written demand of one-third of its members or if the Presidential Council of the People's Republic so decides.

3) Parliament elects a speaker, two deputy speakers and six recorders from among its own members.

4) The sessions of Parliament are convened by the Presidential Council of the People's Republic.

5) Parliament lays down its own rules of procedure and agenda.

Article 13.

As a general rule, the sessions of Parliament are held in public. In exceptional cases Parliament may decide to hold a secret session.

Article 14.

1) The right of legislation is vested in Parliament.

2) Legislation can be initiated by the Presidential Council of the People's Republic, by the Council of Ministers and by any member of Parliament.

Article 15.

1) Parliament can take valid decisions only if at least one half of its members are present. 642x 646

2) Parliament decides issues by a simple majority.

3) Changes in the constitution require the votes of two-thirds of the members of Parliament.

Article 16.

Acts passed by Parliament are signed by the President and Secretary of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic. New acts are promulgated by the President of the Presidential Council. Promulgation is effected by publication in the official gazette.

Article 17.

1) Parliament may at need appoint, out of its own members, a committee to investigate any matter.

2) It is the duty of all public authorities, offices and institutions as well as of all citizens to put at the disposal of such parliamentary committees all the data required by the committee and also to give evidence before the committee if required to do so.

Article 18.

1) Parliament may pronounce its dissolution before the expiration of its term.

2) In the event of war or other emergency Parliament can prolong its mandate for a stated length of time.

3) In the event of war or other emergency the Presidential Council of the People's Republic can re-convene a Parliament that has already been dissolved. A Parliament thus convened can itself decide the duration of its mandate.

4) In the event of dissolution a new Parliament must be elected within not more than three months from the day of dissolution.

5) A newly elected Parliament must be convened by the Presidential Council of the People's Republic within one month of polling day.

Article 19.

1) At its first sitting Parliament elects from among its own members the Presidential Council of the People's Republic, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a secretary and seventeen members. 642x 645

20: Gyorgy S-4 (no date)1947 EC1 Hungary EC1

Postwar Hungary

By Andrew Gyorgy

727 Since the end of military operations Danubian Europe has been un-
668 dergoing a social and political upheaval in which, paradoxically, both Communism and a resurgent nationalism seem to be powerful elements. The most significant contributing factor in this atmosphere of political unrest is the all-too-direct domination of the Soviet Union whose policies are guided by conflicting motivations and divergent objectives, results of the flexible strategic and economic considerations of the Kremlin.[1]

127 Hungary today is in a more precarious position than any of her Danubian neighbors. Hungarians have not fought heroically for liberation as have the Yugoslavs, nor do they enjoy the political prestige Czechoslovakia accumulated through the democratic experience of twenty years. Hungary has no oil, no significant trade-routes, no vital strategic lines of communication as do Rumania and Bulgaria, no well-defined political boundaries which also afford strategic defense, as in the case of Turkey. In view of all these strikingly unfavorable facts and developments, Hungary's present-day hopes and future aspirations are of necessity aimed toward "a well consolidated domestic policy motivated and vitalized by the momentum of radical reform policies."[2] It is
121 the purpose of this article to show the steps taken in the political reconstruction of post-World War II Hungary as well as the forces working against it.

642 On February 1, 1946, an official proclamation by the first demo-
● [646] cratically elected National Assembly unanimously terminated the 945 year-old Hungarian monarchy and declared Hungary a republic. With the simultaneous emergence of a fairly representative and ideologically

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* This article, completed before the Communist putsch of late May, 1947, remains timely as a description of the methods used by a Communist minority to seize power. —THE EDITORS.

1 Soviet policies in Danubian Europe center around three major objectives: 1) to prevent the use of Danubian states as bases for future aggression against Soviet territory; 2) to achieve farreaching social reforms in most of these countries; and 3) to compensate the Soviet people at the expense of the vanquished, who will be forced to contribute heavily to the economic reconstruction of the Soviet Union. Cf. "The Danubian States, Soviet Aims in South-East Europe," *The Times*, London, Nov. 11, 1946, pp. 5 ff.

2 Cf. István Bilbó, "A Magyar Demokrácia Válsága, (The Crisis of Hungarian Democracy)" in *Valóság*, October-December, 1945, p. 39.